

Three prisoners stage Indian-style getaway, throwing chilli powder into the faces of police guards, one of them said Wednesday. The men, one a convicted drug smuggler, temporarily broke through the guards with the powder, dumping on the police van taking them to the court. There were then police chase through the city streets. The prisoners were taken to the court, but the chase was not over. The prisoners were taken to the court, but the chase was not over. The prisoners were taken to the court, but the chase was not over.

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### Israelis favour freeing Jewish extremists

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Israelis think Jewish militants who killed Arabs should be freed from jail following the release this week of 30 Palestinian women held for anti-Israeli attacks, according to a poll published Friday. In the survey printed in the Yediot Aharanot newspaper, 59 per cent of Israelis queried said Jews implicated in politically-motivated attacks against Arabs should be pardoned. Thirty-one per cent were opposed to their release and 10 per cent expressed no opinion. The poll was conducted among 500 persons by the Dahaf Institute. About 12 Jews are currently serving prison terms for attacks on Arabs and would benefit from such an amnesty, including Ami Popper, who murdered seven Palestinian labourers in a May 1990 shooting spree.

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Price: Jordan 200 Fils

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية - مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية - الراي

## Violence is inevitable if Israelis build in Arab Jerusalem — Palestinians

### Arafat prepares for resumed talks on Sunday

JERICHO (Agencies) — A senior Palestinian official issued a fresh warning Friday that violence would erupt if Israel goes ahead with plans to build Jewish neighbourhoods in Arab East Jerusalem. "I warn Israel that there will be a renewed wave of violence if it continues in building settlements," Nabil Abu Rdaina, a close adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said. Asked about expectations that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will next week authorise construction of several thousand homes for Jews in East Jerusalem, Mr. Abu Rdaina said: "Israel will bear the responsibility for the negative consequences of this decision."

Israel on Tuesday released 30 female Palestinian prisoners, an amnesty required under the 1995 interim agreement. On Wednesday, a special Israeli-Palestinian economic commission met and agreed on a formula for reimbursing some \$50 million Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) owed one another in repayment for various services and taxes. Now, the two sides must tackle a range of thorny autonomy issues, including Palestinian demands for an easing of economic and travel restrictions clamped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip a year ago following a series of suicide bombings in Israel.

"This is a violation of signed peace accords and of U.S. guarantees" attached to the agreements, he said. The controversy centres on Israeli government proposals to create a 6,500-home Jewish settlement in the Har Homa district on the southern edge of East Jerusalem and to build 125 homes in the centre of the existing Arab neighbourhood of Ras Al Amud. Mr. Netanyahu, whose categorical stance in favour of Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem was a central plank of his election platform last year, angered right-wingers when he declined to grant final approval for the building projects at a meeting Tuesday. Mr. Netanyahu's reticence appeared motivated by the fact that he was leaving the next day for Washington, where he held talks on Thursday with President Bill Clinton.

Other topics include Israeli security conditions for authorising the opening of an airport and seaport in the Gaza Strip and establishing a "safe passage" corridor for Palestinians to travel from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. For Palestinians, the airport to be located in the southern Gaza Strip represents an important symbol of sovereignty and Mr. Arafat has made the issue a top priority. The airfield is virtually completed but Israeli authorisation for its opening has been blocked by Israeli demands for wide-ranging control over security at the facility to ensure it is not used to smuggle weapons or unauthorised persons in or out of the territory.

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A Palestinian boy is detained for questioning by Israeli soldiers after a scuffle in Hebron town on Friday where Israel has allowed Palestinian merchants to reopen their stores that have been closed for nearly three years. The scuffle broke out when Palestinian merchants demanded that they be allowed to open their stores for business while Israel has only allowed them to open their shutters to make repairs (Reuters photo)

## King calls for concerted world effort to advance peace process

### HM, in London speech, reaffirms Jordan's total support for Palestinians' struggle for their rights

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has urged the world community to help the people of the Middle East to achieve comprehensive peace and pledged Jordan's continued efforts to attain that goal. In an address to the Jewish members of the British parliament, the King said efforts had to be exerted to prevent attempts by small groups to ruin the aspirations of the entire population of the Middle East and prevent the children of Abraham from living in peace, security and stability. Our duty towards our people, our children and future generations of the region is to help them live in peace and save them from further sufferings, the King added.

Stressing that the time had come for redressing the wounds and removing the barriers between the Arabs and Israelis the King said that Semites and children of Abraham should work together in a concerted effort to ensure justice and peace in the area, the birthplace of the three monotheistic religions. Referring to the Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process, the King said efforts must be made in order to revive the peace, negotiations so as to reach a comprehensive peace-stressing that Jordan will pursue its efforts to make the Jordan-Israel peace treaty a model for others in the region. King Hussein stressed that Jordan will also offer all possible help to the Palestinians to enable them to pursue the peace process regardless of the difficulties. Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom attended the King's speech.

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## Experts to speed up Iraq food contracts

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Sanctions Committee experts have agreed on proposals aimed at speeding up the approval of food contracts under an oil-for-food arrangement with Iraq, Western diplomats said.

## Netanyahu wants U.S. to stop Iran, Iraq and Syria from acquiring missiles

### Clinton talks produce no formula to restart Israel-Syria peace negotiations

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iran, Iraq and Syria are feverishly arming themselves, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Friday and urged the United States to prevent them from acquiring long-range missiles. Mr. Netanyahu also said he would continue to provide "complete, free and unfettered access" to Jerusalem for worshippers of all three faiths. "Dominant countries like Iraq and Iran and for that matter Syria, are arming themselves feverishly with ballistic missiles, are preparing warheads, chemical and biological and if Iraq and Iran had their way, nuclear warheads," Mr. Netanyahu said in his address. The weaponry "could change the balance of power in the region... change the map for peace," he warned. His remarks followed recent reports of an alleged transfer of SS-4 missile technology from Russia to Iran that was uncovered by Israeli and U.S. intelligence. The SS-4 has a range of 2,000 kilometres, almost three times greater than that of any missile now in Iran's arsenal. Washington has issued a diplomatic warning to Russia over the alleged transfer but Moscow has denied that the sale took place. The Israeli leader said "a great deal" of his talks during his Washington visit centred on efforts to stop Israel's enemies from acquiring missile technology.

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## Settlers demolish Hebron house

### HEBRON (R) — Jewish settlers on Friday began demolishing a Palestinian house in Hebron confiscated by Israeli military authorities in 1979, Palestinians said.

They said about 10 settlers were drilling through the ceiling of the house, located near a Jewish enclave in the Israeli-held part of Hebron. "They are using large drills to demolish the roof," Suleiman Abu Snaineh, a member of the Palestinian legislative council, told Reuters. "The settlers are acting arrogantly and to direct challenge to the peace approach." Jamal Al Hamouz, whose family owns the house, said Israeli military authorities confiscated the building in 1979 claiming it had been built on land that belonged to Jews before the establishment of Israel in 1948. He said Israel changed the reason when the family appealed the confiscation, saying the building was needed for military use. Israel handed over 80 per cent of Hebron to the Palestinian National Authority last month under a U.S.-brokered interim peace accord. But the heart of the town, where some 420 Jewish settlers live or study amid some 120,000 Palestinians, is under Israeli control.

## Iranian minister meets Syrian officials

DAMASCUS (AP) — Iranian Defence Minister Mohammad Forouzandeh held talks here Friday with Syrian officials on boosting military coordination between the two countries, Iran's ambassador to Damascus said Friday. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan Akhtari did not give a schedule for Mr. Forouzandeh's meetings, but Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said they included talks with his Syrian counterpart, Mustafa Tlass. General Tlass met Mr. Forouzandeh at Damascus airport on Thursday night, then accompanied him Friday to the Syrian town of Quneitra, which Israel destroyed after its capture of the Golan Heights in the 1967 war. Mr. Akhtari implied that the talks would involve southern Lebanon, where the Iranian-backed Hizbollah has been fighting to drive Israeli forces out of the country.

## Crown Prince ends Swiss visit with focus on peace and economy

BERNE (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan ended a visit to Switzerland on Friday after extensive talks with Swiss leaders on the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and the need to rehabilitate the economies of the region. The Crown Prince met with Swiss President Arnold Colli for talks on bilateral ties, the peace process and the European role in achieving peace in the region. Prince Hassan discussed with President Colli issues of common concern, stressing Jordan's commitment to reaching a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Crown Prince also reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinians in their quest to regain their full rights on their national soil and described Israel's annexation of Arab East Jerusalem as null and void and as contravening international legitimacy. Prince Hassan expressed Jordan's willingness to accept Europeans as strategic partners in key sectors such as telecommunications and energy and Dead Sea projects. In a dinner hosted in honour of the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath by Swiss Minister of State for External Economic Affairs Francis Blankart and Swiss businessmen, Prince Hassan called on businessmen to invest in Jordan, describing the investment climate in the Kingdom as a friendly one. Swiss officials voiced support for the Kingdom and appreciation of the key role Jordan is playing in the Middle East region.

In an interview with the Arabic Service of Swiss International Radio, Prince Hassan said Jordan had strenuously tried to rebuild the economies of the Middle East states on a sound basis which in turn requires rearranging trade ties among the Middle East countries. Prince Hassan said that according to international resolutions which reject the acquisition of land by force Israel's annexation of the Arab part of the Holy City was void and baseless. Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's support for Iraq's unity and said the Kingdom opposed any attempt to partition Iraq. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were expected home late Friday.

## Abu Marzouk's possible destination unclear yet

### By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordanian officials have maintained that the Kingdom's efforts to help resolve the crisis involving the possible extradition of the political leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Musa Abu Marzouk, do not necessarily involve an offer to accept the man in its territory. The officials, speaking against a crescendo of reports in the Israeli media that a compromise to resolve the crisis focused on sending Mr. Abu Marzouk to Jordan, said the Palestinian territories was a more likely destination. The officials also pointed out that Jordan's efforts were not limited to Mr. Abu Marzouk but also involved freedom of Hamas founder Sheikh Yassin, who is serving a life term in an Israeli prison but said to be critically ill. "It is not clear yet where Mr. Abu Marzouk will be sent, but the Palestinian territory is the most likely destination," said an official, who did not want to be identified.

Justice Minister Abdul Karim Dugbani, appearing on Jordan Television on Friday, confirmed Jordan was exerting efforts to secure the release of Sheikh Yassin and Mr. Abu Marzouk as well as other Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. But the minister also did not say whether Mr. Abu Marzouk was to be sent to Jordan. Mr. Abu Marzouk himself, in an interview published in an Israeli newspaper warned Israel he would refuse to cooperate if extradited from his U.S. prison. "I will not accept being questioned by the Israeli internal security service (Shin Bet). I will not reply to a single question and I will not even disclose my identity. I will only speak to Israeli judges," said Mr. Abu Marzouk in an interview with the Yediot Aharonot daily.

The paper said Mr. Abu Marzouk also made veiled threats that Hamas would launch a new spate of anti-Israeli attacks inside the Jewish state. (Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)



## Albright sees two-year window of opportunity for Cyprus settlement

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on Thursday that the next two years presented a window of opportunity to tackle the Cyprus crisis despite a recent increase of tension on the divided island.

In an interview with Reuters, Ms. Albright admitted she had developed no strategy so far for resolving the Cyprus problem but saw a need to "use the advantage of the calendar."

Ms. Albright, who took over as secretary of state on Jan. 23, has signalled several times in testimony before Congress that Cyprus, divided since 1974 between its Greek and Turkish communities, will be one of her priorities.

But some U.S. officials say that with relations at a low ebb between the rival communities, this is not the time for a Cyprus initiative.

"Obviously we're all concerned about the increase in tensions in the island of Cyprus and I think we want to make sure that the situa-

tion does not worsen in any way," Ms. Albright said. "But I do think also that the 1997-1998 period is a very important one in terms of (Cyprus) desire to accede to the (European Union) and their elections in '98."

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke spoke more than a year ago of launching a Cyprus peace bid, only to be defeated by a flare-up of tension between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean.

More recently, four people have been killed in shooting incidents along the demarcation line in Cyprus. And an announcement by the Greek Cypriot government that it plans to buy anti-aircraft missiles from Russia drew threats of military strikes from Ankara.

Ms. Albright said she did "not have a piece of paper with a strategy on it yet."

"But I do know that it's very important to defuse the tensions and try to use this period as a way that can help U.S. use the advantage

of the calendar," she said. Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops landed in the north of the Mediterranean island in 1974 in response to a coup in Nicosia engineered by the Junta then ruling Greece.

The United Nations has since been trying to reunite Cyprus under a federal system. But the bitter hostility between the two communities has thwarted a series of mediators.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday the world body hoped to continue proximity talks with community leaders in the hope that "we can see enough progress and identify enough common ground for U.S. eventually to have face-to-face talks."

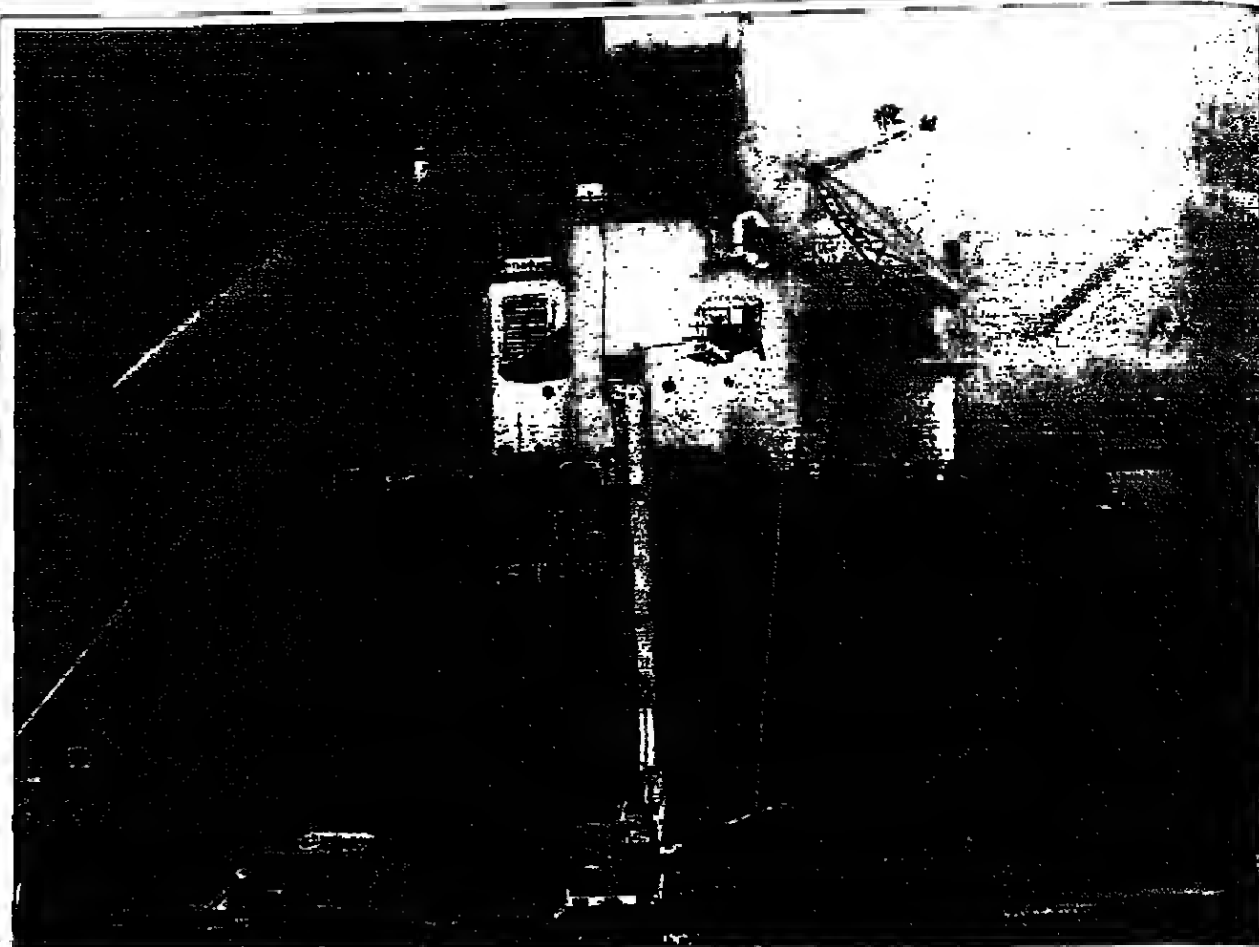
"It would be preferable that the talks take place this year and ideally before September. Otherwise we are going to get into the election fever," he said, referring to elections due to be held by the Greek Cypriots early in 1998.

The Cyprus parliament meanwhile, approved the

1977 defence budget of more than \$400 million, clearing the way to buy Russian ground-to-air missiles at the centre of a crisis with Turkey. The budget of 203 million pounds (\$408 million) covers a deposit for the S-300 air defence system which is set for deployment on the divided island in mid-1998.

The Cyprus news agency said the budget was approved unanimously, although the opposition warned the spending was "beyond the economy" of the small island and could "send the wrong message abroad." The Greek-Cypriot administration plans to spend as much as \$2.5 billion on a five-year armament drive, which would amount to six per cent of gross national product.

After buying around 50 French tanks as well as Exocet missiles, the Greek Cypriots have turned to Russia as their main arms supplier. In October, Moscow delivered the first of a consignment of 41 tanks worth \$175 million.



SMOULDERING TANKER: Firefighters try to cool Turkey's biggest oil tanker still smouldering in Istanbul's Tuzla dockyard on Friday. Twenty-one people were injured in the tanker fire which erupted after an explosion on Thursday (Reuters photo)

## Tehran worshippers call for Rushdie's execution

TEHRAN (AP) — Worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran marked the eighth anniversary of Iran's death sentence against Salman Rushdie by chanting slogans demanding the British author's execution.

"The apostate Salman Rushdie must be executed," worshippers shouted before beginning prayers at the Tehran University campus.

But Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the head of several powerful government committees, made no mention of Rushdie in a lengthy sermon that preceded the prayers.

The Iranian government has been trying to distance itself from the private 15th Khordad Foundation, which raised its reward for Mr. Rushdie's execution by \$500,000, to \$2.5 million. The additional money was to be paid only if Mr. Rushdie were killed during the 10 days of celebrations marking the anniversary of Iran's revolution. The celebrations ended Monday.

On Feb. 14, 1989, Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, called on Muslims around the world to kill Mr. Rushdie. He said Mr. Rushdie had insulted Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The Indian-born writer went into hiding for years following Khomeini's fatwa, or religious edict. He now moves under tight security.

Iran has not denounced the fatwa, but has said it will not send agents to kill Mr. Rushdie.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards, however, said in a statement published Thursday that Muslims across the world would not rest until Mr. Rushdie was killed. The guards are the country's main fighting force.

"Rushdie will burn in the fire of his own making," the statement said. It was published in the Jomhuri Islami daily.

A powerful group representing university students issued a statement Thursday criticising the government for not actively trying to kill Mr. Rushdie.

"It's a sorry state of affairs that less than 10 years after the fatwa was issued some officials are trying to distance themselves from it in order to gain popularity with the West," the statement from the Unity Consolidation Bureau said.

It called on the government to "actively seek to implement the fatwa."

Mr. Rushdie on marked the eighth anniversary of the fatwa against his life by condemning Europe's "toxic" effort to pressure Iran into withdrawing its death threat.

"The extreme passivity of the foreign office has permitted the rest of the EU (European Union) to go to sleep on this issue, and has given the Iranians the sign that there is really no need for them to do very much at all," Mr. Rushdie wrote in the Guardian newspaper. "A few stiff words once a year are no substitute for policy."

## Freed Palestinian has no regrets over dead soldier

SAO PAULO (R) — A Brazilian woman of Palestinian descent who was released from an Israeli prison last week said on Thursday she had no regrets about her role in the 1984 killing of an Israeli army sergeant.

"It was not personal ... it was an act of war," Laila Maarouf told reporters at her home shortly after returning to Brazil.

"Regret? That word does not belong in my vocabulary," she said. "We were warriors just like the Israelis, except we had no uniforms, no planes, no tanks."

Ms. Maarouf, 32, was deported to Brazil on Wednesday after serving 11 years of a life sentence for her role in the killing of David Manous.

Manous was hitchhiking when he was picked up by Ms. Maarouf and her husband, Tawfik Ibrahim, both of whom were involved in the Al Fateh Palestinian movement. Manous was shot by Mr. Ibrahim, who is still serving time in prison.

Ms. Maarouf, freed on Wednesday, was one of 30 Palestinian women whose release was agreed in 1995 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Far from apologising for her involvement in guerrilla activities, Ms. Maarouf said it was the determination of people like herself that allowed the peace process to start.

"Just the other day (Palestinian President) Yasser Arafat said he wouldn't be where he is today if it weren't for the prisoners," Ms. Maarouf said.

Ms. Maarouf's story has brought home the violence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to many Brazilians, who normally consider the problems in the Middle East as a foreign and distant tragedy.

Hundreds of family members, sympathisers and journalists packed into Sao Paulo's Cumbica airport on Thursday to welcome Ms. Maarouf back to Brazil.

But leaders of the Jewish community said they were concerned the Brazilian press coverage would transform Ms. Maarouf into a heroine.

"As a rabbi I support her liberation within the context of the peace process. However, I hope she is received as what she is, and not as a heroine," said Rabbi Henry Sobel of the Sao Paulo Jewish congregation.

Rabbi Sobel said he had refused an invitation to meet Ms. Maarouf at the airport.

Ms. Maarouf, who has an 11-year-old daughter, said she was working to obtain permission to return to Israel so that she could remain close to her jailed husband.

"I am a freedom fighter. But now we must fight for peace," she said.

## Palestinian woman refuses release

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian woman convicted of drug offences and due to be released from an Israeli prison has refused to leave jail, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

"She doesn't want to leave," an Israeli prison spokeswoman said of Zaynab Abu Sido, who was due to be freed along with 30 other Palestinian women prisoners last week.

A prison source who refused to be identified said Abu Sido, from Gaza, feared she would be ostracised or even harmed if forced to return to Palestinian self-rule areas. Hisham Abdul Razak, Palestinian National Authority chief negotiator on prisoners, confirmed Abu Sido refused to leave jail.

Palestinian human rights lawyer Subhiya Jumaa told Reuters a woman who had served time for drug crimes could face a harsh life upon being released in conservative Gaza society.

"Under such a conservative community, with certain traditions, it could happen," Ms. Jumaa said. "There is fear."

The other 30 Palestinian women prisoners were received by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and cheering crowds on Wednesday in self-ruled Ramallah.

Palestinian negotiator Sufyan Abu Zayde told Reuters some 3,000 male prisoners remained in Israeli jails. Israeli sources put the number closer to 2,200.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli archaeologist angers Samaritans

NABLUS (AFP) — An Israeli archaeologist has angered the Samaritans by parking two caravans in the West Bank on their most holy site, Kabin Husni Wasif, the community's treasurer and director of a Samaritan Research Centre, said archaeologist Yitzhak Magen had set up camp on the peak of Mount Grizim. "He appears to be planning to overturn the earth, which would be a desecration of our most holy site," Mr. Wasif told AFP, adding that the archaeologist was looking for the "lost ark." There was no immediate comment from Mr. Magen or the Israeli antiquities department. Around 300 Samaritans live on Mount Grizim and in nearby Nablus, while Holon near Tel Aviv is home to another 300 Samaritans who have Israeli nationality. They are descendants of the Jews but do not recognise the Talmud, or primary source of Jewish religious law.

### Iraq denies security forces killed suspects

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq denied Thursday that its security forces have killed 11 people while attempting to detain suspects in the attempt on the life of Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday. "These claims are not true and they are baseless," an Information Ministry official, who requested anonymity, told the Associated Press. Iraqi dissidents said Wednesday that the 11 people were killed Feb. 2 in the Baghdad suburb of Gre'at, which is believed to be mainly inhabited by Shiite Muslims who oppose the regime. They said the victims were members of one family accused of harbouring suspects wanted in connection with the Dec. 12 attempt on Uday's life.

### U.N. urges Sweden not to expel Iranian

GENEVA (AFP) — The United Nations urged Sweden on Friday not to expel an Iranian dissident seeking asylum in Stockholm as the activist would likely be mis-

treated on his return to Tehran by Iranian authorities. The U.N. Committee Against Torture ruled that Kavegh Yargah Tala, an Iranian citizen resident in Sweden since 1990 "should not be forcibly returned to his home country as he likely would be subjected to torture," a U.N. statement said. Sweden's immigration authorities rejected Mr. Tala's request for asylum and ordered his expulsion, citing inconsistencies in his claims that he was detained and tortured in Iran in 1989 before being able to flee to Sweden. The dissident wife, turned to the U.N. body which called on Sweden not to send him back to Iran. "Substantial grounds exist for believing that the author would be in danger of being subjected to torture if returned to Iran," the U.N. committee said.

### USAID provides \$2 million to Palestinians

JERICHO (AP) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) committed \$2 million to the Palestinians Thursday to help finance local government elections scheduled for this summer. The agreement signed by USAID Director Christopher D. Crowley and Saeh Erekat, the Palestinian minister of municipal affairs, said that the money would be in the form of a grant monitored and distributed by the International Foundation for the Election System. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and U.S. Consul Edward G. Ahington presided over the signing. "The United States is committed to supporting this process of building democratic structures within the Palestinian society in partnership with the Palestinian (National) Authority," Mr. Ahington said. "We believe in and support a Palestinian government based on political pluralism, tolerance and democratic freedom as an essential ingredient for permanent peace in the region," he added. Mr. Erekat said that 374 local municipal councils will be elected in elections this summer. "We thank the USAID and the United States for this agreement and their continuing support," Mr. Erekat added.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
14:08 Cartoon — Mickey & Donald Adventures	
14:30 Cartoon — Moomin	
15:00 French Programme	
16:00 Gillette	
16:30 Drc — Guide to the Universe	
17:00 News Flash	
17:15 Drama — Blue Heelers	
18:00 French Programmes	
19:30 News Headlines	
19:35 Comedy — Hangin' With Mr. Cooper	
20:00 Doc — Magazine-01	
20:30 Prizm — The New Adventures of Superman	
22:00 News in English	
22:25 MacGyver	
23:00 Feature Film: "A Breed Apart — P.G.V."	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57 Fajr	
06:15 (Sunrise) Doha	
11:50 Dhuh	
14:56 Asr	
17:25 Maghreb	
18:45 Isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656	
Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation	

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
14:08 Cartoon — Mickey & Donald Adventures	
14:30 Cartoon — Moomin	
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22:00 News in English	
22:25 MacGyver	
23:00 Feature Film: "A Breed Apart — P.G.V."	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57 Fajr	
06:15 (Sunrise) Doha	
11:50 Dhuh	
14:56 Asr	
17:25 Maghreb	
18:45 Isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656	
Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Amman 15, Aqaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent	
ANGELIC CHURCH Tel. 652826	
ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tel. 771331	
ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH Tel. 772561	
ST. EPHRAIM CHURCH Tel. 771751	
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH Tel. 827126	
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Tel. 824328	
GERMAN-SPEAKING EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION Tel. 843457	
THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS Tel. 654932	
CHURCH OF NAZARETH Tel. 675691	
THE EVANGELICAL LOCAL CHURCH IN AMMAN Tel. 811295	
ENGLISH-SPEAKING LUTHERAN CHURCH Tel. 614190	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Temperatures are expected to become slightly above average with winds light and variable. In Aqaba, it will be warm, winds northerly moderate and sea calm	
Mm/Max temp.	
Amman .....	02/18
Aqaba .....	08/22
Deserts .....	02/17
Jordan Valley .....	08/22
Yesterday's high temperatures:	

Highway Police .....	843402
Traffic Police .....	896390
Public Security Department .....	630321
Hotel Complaints .....	605800
Price Complaints .....	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints .....	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....	121
Overseas Calls .....	010220
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....	661101
Jordan Television .....	773111
Radio Jordan .....	774111
Water Authority .....	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority .....	815615
Electric Power Company .....	636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200	
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre .....	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .....	644231/6
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn .....	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity .....	642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani .....	607071
Shmeisani Hospital .....	669131
University Hospital .....	345845
Al-Muasher Hospital .....	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali .....	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....	771013
AI-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .....	775111/26
Army, Marka .....	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital .....	602240/50
Amal Hospital .....	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....	09983323
Zarqa National Hospital .....	09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital .....	09986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital .....	09999990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital .....	02725555
Greek Catholic Hospital .....	02727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....	02747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital .....	03134111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:55 .....	Damascus (RJ)
09:25 .....	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
09:45 .....	New Delhi (RJ)
09:55 .....	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 .....	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:05 .....	Beirut (RJ)
10:30 .....	Colombo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
16:20 .....	Cairo (RJ)
17:40 .....	London, Berlin (RJ)
20:00 .....	Vienna (RJ)
23:00 .....	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
05:35 .....	Bangkok (add) (RJ)
07:45 .....	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
Other Flights	
12:40 .....	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:05 .....	Vienna (OS)
18:15 .....	Dubai, Damascus (EK)
21:00 .....	Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:20 .....	Lamaca (CY)
22:25 .....	Beirut (ME)
22:35 .....	Cairo (MS)
23:40 .....	Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
23:50 .....	London (RJ)
01:00 .....	London, Damascus (BA)
03:45 .....	Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:20 .....	Beirut (RJ)
08:00 .....	Aqaba, Brussels (add) (RJ)
11:30 .....	Vienna (RJ)
11:30 .....	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:50 .....	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:00 .....	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15 .....	London (RJ)
12:15 .....	Cairo





's biggest oil tanker still smouldering in the tanker fire which



Two Ammanites Thursday admire Valentines Day flower display (Reuters photo)

## Disabled children benefit from work of British physiotherapist

By Sacha Baggili  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Professionals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and Jordanian families concerned with handicapped care have benefited from the dedication and expertise of Archibald Hinchcliffe, a British-trained physiotherapist, specialising in care for disabled children.

Ms. Hinchcliffe, who has been living in Jordan since her husband's appointment as British ambassador to Jordan in 1993, has been working in cooperation with Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, the Queen Alia Fund (QAF) for Social Development, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation and has been training physiotherapists at Al Bashir Hospital.

"When compared to the quality offered in neighbouring countries, training provided for physiotherapists in Jordan is good," Chief of the Physical and Rehabilitation Department at Al Bashir Hospital Khalil Abbadi affirmed.

"However," he admonished, "the two-year course offered to physiotherapy students in this country is somewhat general and it is difficult for students to specialise. Ms. Hinchcliffe has provided expert knowledge in the area of care for handicapped children."

During her sojourn in other countries such as Tanzania, Zambia, Kuwait and Dubai, Ms. Hinchcliffe was involved in care for the handicapped by offering hands-on support.

However, as a result of her participation in a long-distance course from Dundee University, she has been able to fulfil her broader desire of passing on expertise which, she said, could be conducive to more long-term progress.

"Although there is great cooperation between the Ministry of Health, doctors, NGOs and individual volunteers in Jordan, the importance of the role of physiotherapists, particularly for children with cerebral palsy, must be recognised," said Ms. Hinchcliffe.



A child with cerebral palsy benefits from a support frame intended to help correct physical misalignments

need. Chairman of Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped Princess Majda, Reem Zurakat from Jordanian Friends and Families of Disabled People and Ms. Hinchcliffe have all been active in seeking government support for the establishment of a three-year degree course in physiotherapy.

Funding for this project was denied by the British Overseas Development Agency (ODA) on the basis that such an upgrade would reportedly be of little benefit to the disabled community in Jordan.

The agency maintained that graduates would seek employment in the United States or the Gulf, unless the Ministries of Health and Planning recognised the importance of highly qualified physiotherapists and the establishment of a framework between doctors, physiotherapists, and patients.

"Speaking as a parent of a physically handicapped child, I recognise the necessity of a move to upgrade training for physiotherapists in Jordan. Professional opinions such as those of Ms. Hinchcliffe are in sync with those of parents of disabled children on this issue," Ms. Zurakat said.

According to Ms. Hinchcliffe, "as 50 per cent of Jordan's population is under 15 years of age, and according to figures, accepted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), three per cent of the total population of the developing world has a mental or physical disability, one can ascertain the need for special focus on the needs of handicapped children in the country."

With this sentiment, Ms.

## Cold front damages crops

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cold and frost over the past week has resulted in considerable damage to crops around the country, including those in the Jordan Valley where temperatures are usually several degrees higher than those in the Kingdom's highlands, according to Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat.

Quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily Friday, Dr. Shneikat said that in some areas damage to produce such as squash was total. Average losses in the Jordan Valley ranged between 50 and 80 per cent, he said.

The minister added that eggplant, potatoes, beans and tomatoes were also badly hit, and that the estimated 3,600 dunums of banana plantations in the northern Jordan Valley suffered severe frost damage. He said that ministry committees are inspecting farms in North Shuneh.

Deir 'Alla and South Shuneh in the valley and will submit reports on the losses sustained there.

Farmers in the central Jordan Valley had earlier reported that 75 per cent of 15,000 dunums of vegetable and citrus crops sustained damage, according to the Al Dustour report.

According to ministry sources, an estimated 30 per cent of the country's total farmland areas were adversely affected by last week's frost.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology Friday forecast sunny skies in the coming three days with temperatures rising to 16, 17 and 18 degrees Celsius in Amman and dropping to 4 degrees Celsius at night.

It said that a drop in temperatures is expected Monday evening when a low depression will affect the country.

costs from their annual budgets, the HUDC statement said.

Government employees who work and reside in the same governorate will only be allocated such units with special approval, it said.

According to the statement, the HUDC requested that the ministries state the size and area of the units they require as well as their locations.

It said each square metre of these units has been estimated to cost JD 200.

The HUDC said that the RJ office in Tokyo will serve as an office for this society, which groups representatives of 30 Japanese travel and tourism agencies. The group met in Tokyo with Jordanian Ambassador to Japan Farouk Qasrawi to release the announcement, the statement said.

RJ said that the creation of the society is part of the follow-up activities stemming from "Jordanian Week" held in Tokyo in June 1995.

HUDC to study civil servants' housing needs

AMMAN (Petra) — A Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) statement Friday outlined plans to study the housing needs of civil servants employed in governorates other than where they permanently reside.

The study is being instituted in order to locate adequate lodging for them.

Such housing units will be state-owned and assigned to various government ministries and their auxiliary departments, which will be responsible for covering the housing

Cooperation society formed in Tokyo

TOKYO (Petra) — A Japanese-Jordanian cooperation society has been formed in Tokyo to promote tourism to the Kingdom, according to a Royal Jordanian (RJ) statement Friday.

The statement said that the RJ office in Tokyo will serve as an office for this society, which groups representatives of 30 Japanese travel and tourism agencies. The group met in Tokyo with Jordanian Ambassador to Japan Farouk Qasrawi to release the announcement, the statement said.

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What's Going On

EXHIBITIONS

\*Display of Jordan River Design Products, Jabal Amman (Tel. 613081/2) until Feb. 28.

## Court sentences man to death in murder case

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Thursday sentenced one man to death and four others to six to ten years imprisonment on charges of murder and rape.

The court tribunal found Ayman Izzidin Hilal, an Egyptian national, guilty of complicity in the murder of a 29-year-old Jordanian woman, identified only as Muna, in the Amman National Park in July of 1995.

The court also sentenced Khaled Salim, 29, to death for fatally shooting Muna, however, as the family of the victim dropped charges, the sentence was subsequently reduced to 10 years with temporary hard labour.

In events related to the case, the court sentenced Mohammad Mahmoud, 32, to ten years imprisonment after he was found guilty of raping an acquaintance of the victim, whose name the Jordan Times has withheld for ethical reasons.

Two women, Mr. Mahmoud's wife Sabrieh Shukri, 24, and her sister Atrah, 20, were both sentenced to prison terms of six years and eight months for complicity in the rape.

According to court documents, Mr. Salim had met the rape victim in May of 1995. She informed him that she was looking for a job and a place to stay as her husband was incarcerated.

The defendant resolved to help her, transcripts said, and found her a place in live with Mr. Hilal while giving her money for herself and her child.

In July, according to affidavits, the rape victim went to visit her friends, Sabrieh and Atrah, and saw Muna and Mr. Mahmoud.

"They engaged in a dispute that Khaled [Salim] was paying more attention to her than to Muna," the court said, without specifying the nature of either woman's relationship with the defendant.

Sabrieh and Atrah Shukri then drew switch blades and threatened the woman, while Muna pinned her to the ground, aided by the two sisters, and asked Mr. Mahmoud to rape her, documents said.

"Mohammad [Mahmoud] punched the woman in the face, then raped her although she fought and struggled," the court said.

She then returned to her house, after registering the incident with the police, and informed Messrs. Salim and Hilal of what had happened, and "they vowed to kill the four."

On the morning of the incident, the two defendants searched for Muna in the Quesimeh area, and upon finding her, drove her to the Amman National Park.

Mr. Salim drew a gun he had purchased two days prior to the incident and shot Muna once in the back of the head.

"Mr. Hilal, then retrieved a knife from the car, sliced off her left nipple, stabbed her in the back and the two men left," the court said.

The two then returned to the rape victim and informed her that they killed Muna to avenge her honour, and Mr. Hilal presented the nipple as evidence.

Muna's decomposing body was found on July 23, two weeks subsequent to the murder.

The court maintained that it relied on the defendants' confessions in front of the prosecution, the gun seized at Mr. Salim's house and other evidence.

Thursday's death sentence was the second since the inception of 1997.

The court tribunal was headed by Justices Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq, Milich Mubaidin and Ismael Hmouz.

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On Feb. 11, a 27-year-old man was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court after being declared guilty of murdering his youngest sister in 1996.

Khaled Saqa was found guilty of the premeditated murder of his 25-year-old married sister in her house.

According to court papers, the victim had discovered that her brother was stealing money and jewellery from her house, and disclosed the matter to her family, stating she did not want her brother to visit her any more.

"Khaled became angry that his sister informed the family and plotted to kill her," the court said.

On the morning of the murder, Mr. Saqa went to his sister's house and subsequently to drinking a cup of coffee with her and discussing the matter, he produced a rope and strangled her, the court said.

All verdicts are automatically reviewed by a higher court within 30 days.

Last year, 10 people were executed for various crimes in the Kingdom.

Telecommunications authority denies plans to sell radio frequencies

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Telecommunication Regulatory Authority does not plan to allocate radio frequencies to non-Jordanian or non-governmental organisations, the director general of the authority, Youssef Abu Jamous, told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Abu Jamous was referring to a report in Al Nida weekly newspaper last week.

The report said that "steps to sell FM frequency spots on Jordanian airwaves has reached final stages."

The article said that Ministry of Information officials, have decided to sell two FM waves, one to the French and another to Moote Carlo Radio and in order not to offend the British, the article stated, the Ministry of Information resolved to allocate some of the Greater Amman radio waves to the BBC.

According to Al Nida, France has offered the gross sum of JD 250,000 to procure two FM airwaves and the deal was concluded with the agreement that the sum would be paid partially in cash and the rest in the form of equipment.

It further stated that Monte Carlo Radio offered JD 200,000 while the BBC offered JD 100,000.

However, Mr. Abu Jamous informed the Jordan Times that the 1995 Telecommunications Law bans the use of electro-magnetic waves below 3,000 gigahertz without obtaining a licence from the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

Radio and television frequencies are part of the country's natural resources and should be protected, he said.



A view of the Club

### Dunes Club Amman... now under construction

The finest multi-sports and social Club for members only is pleased to announce that applications for membership are invited

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Jordan Times facsimile # 696183







### ASEAN-E ties grow despite split on Burma

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian and South East Asian nations have agreed to expand their ties at a meeting in Singapore, despite a split on Burma. The meeting, which was the first since the Asian financial crisis, was held at the Shangri-La Hotel. The ASEAN-Euroforum was the main focus of the meeting. The forum was held in Singapore on Thursday. The forum was the first since the Asian financial crisis. The forum was held at the Shangri-La Hotel. The forum was the first since the Asian financial crisis.

### More Zairean refugees arrive in Zambia

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Some 3,000 Zairean refugees arrived overnight in Zambia bringing the total number of refugees who have fled here from strife-torn eastern Zaire to 6,000, the Zambian Red Cross Society said Friday. Chipso Lungu, the secretary-general of the Red Cross here, told AFP that the 3,000 refugees crossed into Zambia through the Mpulungu Port in the northern province bordering Zaire and Tanzania on Lake Tanganyika late Thursday. "We understand that four other barges with about 4,000 refugees are still on the lake and could be heading for Mpulungu," she added.

### U.S. soldier shakes hands with a Bosnian Muslim boy

A U.S. soldier (left) shakes hands with a Bosnian Muslim boy just outside the northern town of Brcko Thursday (Reuters photo)

### Russian president rules out rushed changes to constitution

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, making his first radio address since he fell ill with pneumonia last month, Friday ruled out hasty constitutional amendments sought by his political foes to reduce his powers or oust him. "Amendments and additions can be made to (the constitution) but you should not rush this. It must be a 'natural' process," Mr. Yeltsin said, speaking clearly but slowly and with a slightly hoarse voice in a six-minute address.

### Police arrest 7 after Sri Lanka MP killing

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka police arrested the brother of a former mayor and six others in connection with the killing of a ruling coalition legislator whose death sparked riots in southern Sri Lanka this week, police said Friday. Colombo Police Headquarters said in a statement that a special police squad probing the killing of Nalanda Ellawala had arrested Sumil Prematilake, brother of ex-Ratnapura Mayor Mahinda Ratnatilleke. The two named suspects in the killing, Mr. Ratnatilleke and lawmaker Susantha Panchinilame of the main opposition United National Party (UNP), were not among those detained.

### Shuttle astronauts begin Hubble upgrade

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, Texas (R) — Two spacewalking astronauts from shuttle Discovery eased the first of two new scientific instruments into the Hubble space telescope Friday, starting a \$350 million orbital tune-up. Mark Lee and Steve Smith gently removed one of the telescope's ageing instruments and replaced it with a state-of-the-art spectrograph, called STIS, that will aid astronomers seeking massive black holes. The installation of the \$125 million instrument was the first item on the astronauts' list of 10 upgrades for the orbiting observatory. It proved a little tricky to fit the 700 lb (320 kg), refrigerator-sized spectro-



A U.S. soldier (left) shakes hands with a Bosnian Muslim boy just outside the northern town of Brcko Thursday (Reuters photo)

### Bosnian Federation cautiously welcomes Brcko decision

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Ejjup Ganic, vice-president of the Muslim-Croat Federation — one of post-war Bosnia's two entities — gave a cautious welcome Friday to a decision to place the disputed town of Brcko under international supervision for a year. "We are one step closer to justice," Mr. Ganic, who is Muslim, told CNN in an interview monitored here. He said the decision would give Croats and Muslims the opportunity to return to the city. The federation claims that Brcko, a key strategic town in northern Bosnia captured by the Serbs in 1992, should be theirs because it had a non-Serb majority before the war.

### Taleban play down fighting in east Afghanistan

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia has sent reinforcements to the eastern province of Kunar, a Taleban official said, but played down the significance of fighting in the area. "During the Islamic holiday of Eid the enemy launched an attack," Taleban Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi said. "Yesterday government forces cleared the opposition and recaptured the area. Some 500 men have been sent as reinforcements," Mr. Mutaqi told reporters. There was no independent confirmation of his comments. Mr. Mutaqi said the opposition had not captured any significant territory.

### Ecuador's new president fires 6,000 civil servants

QUITO (AFP) — In his first act as Ecuador's new president, Fabian Alarcon fired thousands of civil servants recruited under his predecessor Abdala Bucaram, who in turn blasted bankers and businessmen for orchestrating his ouster. Mr. Bucaram, 45, was ousted from the presidency by Congress one week ago in a vote that accused him of corruption and nepotism and ruled him insane and unfit to govern. Mr. Alarcon, who was elected by Congress late Tuesday, ordered the dismissal of some 6,000 workers hired under Mr. Bucaram and the rehiring of about 3,000 employees who had been dismissed during his predecessor's rule.

### Clinton outraged at killing of British soldier

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Thursday condemned the "callous" killing of a British soldier by a suspected IRA gunman and urged pro-British loyalists in Northern Ireland to show restraint. The 23-year-old soldier was manning a checkpoint outside the village of Besbrook in Northern Ireland when he was hit by a shot from a high velocity rifle Wednesday night. "I am grieved and outraged by the callous killing of a British soldier in Northern Ireland yesterday," Mr. Clinton said in a written statement. "The first lady and I extend our deepest sympathy to the soldier's family and to the British government and people on the loss of this young man."

### Bosnian Federation cautiously welcomes Brcko decision

he said. He said the decision meant that the federation would open trade with Croatia and Serbia and Europe "because Brcko is the main gate for us to export and import goods." Mr. Ganic said the federation hoped whoever was chosen as administrator would be someone with "experience" who would see multi-ethnicity as an advantage. He said that he expected that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, who had threatened to resign if the city were awarded to the Serbs, would now stay in his post. "Since Brcko now is not given to the Republika Srpska, it is practically given to the international community to run for one year, I hope that the president will continue with his duty," Mr. Ganic said.

The fate of the town, which is also claimed by Bosnia's other entity — the Republika Srpska, was the one issue left unresolved in Dayton. An international arbitration commission announced in Rome Friday that Brcko would be placed under temporary international supervision for one year until a final decision was made. "My message would be that justice is coming in steps. Now we have much more justice than a year ago... We hope that international supervision will restore the city to how it was and that will bring us closer to justice," he said.

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The United States Thursday stressed the need for quick international action to support the controversial decision on the fate of Brcko. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns refused to comment on what conclusion Robert Owens, the American arbitrator handling the Brcko case, had arrived at. "It's a very emotional issue... We think it's one that has to be handled quite sensitively," he told reporters. But he insisted "I don't want to assume the worst is going to happen" and war will reignite.

The 1995 U.S.-mediated Dayton Peace Accords "have turned the situation around for the better, and we expect that that trend will continue," Mr. Burns said. Meanwhile, several Bosnian Muslim families were expelled from Croat-held western Mostar overnight despite solemn pledges from Croat authorities to put a halt to "ethnic cleansing." U.N. police monitors reported Thursday. "Unfortunately, we have reports that overnight four or five expulsions may have taken place. These cases are currently being investigated," United Nations spokesman Alexander Ivanko told a news conference.

International police monitors received the reports of expulsions only hours after Croat leaders promised their Muslim counterparts they would halt a wave of expulsions and defuse tensions in the divided town in southwestern Bosnia. In the worst violence since a peace agreement was reached in November 1995, Croat men opened fire and stabbed Muslims trying to visit a cemetery on the west side Monday, leaving one dead and 22 wounded.

U.N. human rights workers said the few Muslims and Serbs remaining in western Mostar were under serious threat due to the heightened tensions. International police recorded 34 cases of expulsions Monday and Tuesday night in western Mostar, Ivanko said. The Muslims who came back discovered locks on their doors had been changed or valuables stolen. One man received threats over the telephone immediately on returning home, Mr. Ivanko said.

Troops from the NATO-led Peace Stabilisation Force (SFOR) kept up patrols and manned checkpoints Thursday to try to deter further violence between rival Muslim and Croat communities. SFOR spokesman Major Andrew Saddleton said the town was "tense but calm" after gunfire and three explosions were reported overnight.

Mr. Alarcon said he was planning a campaign of his own and told reporters Thursday his Foreign Ministry would "inform the world what really happened in Ecuador." Monsignor Antonio Arregui, the secretary general of Ecuador's Episcopal Conference and the country's top Catholic cleric, said that Mr. Bucaram should be punished for any laws that he broke before he could be forgiven by his fellow Ecuadorians. "Christian forgiveness implies first punishment for the transgressions that were committed," he said. "We must know what we are forgiving."

Mr. Alarcon said Thursday that Ecuador would honour its foreign financial obligations, a statement designed to calm investors jittery after earlier calls to redirect money from foreign debt payments to social welfare programmes. Mr. Alarcon said that 45 per cent of Ecuador's \$5.7 billion annual budget would be allocated to repaying debts of all kinds.

Mr. Bucaram met Thursday with Argentine President Carlos Menem, telling reporters later Mr. Menem had promised that "Argentina will raise its voice in protest" over Ecuador's constitutional crisis at the Organisation of American States and the United Nations and other international bodies. Both Mr. Bucaram and Mr. Menem are notorious for their high-profile eccentricities. In the past, Mr. Menem has played soccer with Argentina's national team and invited U.S. singer Madonna to the government residence for dinner.

As president, Mr. Bucaram, who adopted the nickname "El Loco" (the Crazy One), recorded an album with a Uruguayan pop group and invited Lorena Bobbitt — famous for having sliced off her husband's penis — to the government mansion. "I am the (legitimate) president because I was never beaten in elections," he said. Mr. Bucaram, who has not recognised his ouster, said the actions of the Ecuadorian Congress were tantamount to a "coup d'etat."

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*The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.*







# Arabs under fire for blocking internal trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab governments have been accused of blocking trade among their countries by failing to encourage exporters and keeping customs barriers despite their long-standing free trade pact.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the main financial organisation in the 22-member Arab League, said a large part of imported goods had been damaged because of prolonged inspection at border customs points.

"The customs procedures and practices are still obstructing the flow of goods among Arab countries," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a study.

"This is a result of the numerous parties in charge of clearing imported goods and the complicated and prolonged clearance procedures... In some member states, a full round of clearance for an imported shipment requires more than 20 transactions, which are damaging the goods in most cases," the AMF pointed out.

The AMF, a regional IMF-style institution, said customs authorities in several Arab countries still do not approve trade and health certificates accompanying imported shipments and have to check the whole shipment.

Such measures, it added,

are taking a long time and apart from ruining the credibility of exporters, they are also making the imported goods costlier and affecting the purchasing power of the consumers.

"Such problems are also weakening the ability of Arab exporters to reach regional markets and compete with foreign exporters," the fund said.

It was the latest in a series of AMF's studies criticising member states for their failure to spur growth in inter-Arab trade, which officials believe is essential for plans to achieve the long-sought economic integration.

Customs barriers have coupled with financial and political obstacles to smoother inter-Arab trade, which has remained below 10 per cent of the total commercial exchange of league members over the past 20 years.

Official figures showed exports among Arab countries stood at around \$13.5 billion in 1995 compared with their total exports of \$142.9 billion. Internal imports were also as low as \$11 billion in 1995 compared with total imports of nearly \$125 billion.

The AMF has created a fund with a capital of \$500 million to finance inter-Arab trade as part of its policy to

encourage reforms in the region. But demand for its credits has remained low due to technical and political difficulties while customs and other obstacles persisted.

It has also introduced an advanced trade data network to provide information to Arab exporters on the regional markets. But most members have failed to benefit from that facility as they lack economic indicators.

"The network's role is obstructed by the shortage of data on export and import opportunities in the Arab countries," the AMF said.

The report said commercial exchange among Arab states could have improved if they respected their 1981 agreement to free trade flow among them.

The agreement includes exemptions on customs tariffs on several products but did not include any timetable for a free trade zone, it added.

"Arab states have not been seriously committed to this agreement. This has prompted plans by the Arab League to revise the agreement and find a more suitable mechanism that will lead to the creation of a free trade zone in a specific period of time," the study concluded.

## Egypt, EU edge towards partnership agreement

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the European Union (EU), at talks in Brussels last week, edged close to a partnership agreement providing for free trade in services and manufactured goods, the Egyptian negotiator has said.

Ambassador Gamal Bayoumi told Reuters the European negotiators had stopped talking about traditional trade flows and said they could offer new quotas for Egypt's agricultural exports to Europe — the main bone of contention in the talks.

"Now they have realised that traditional flows of trade are a silly thing to talk about. They mentioned that they can propose new (quota) figures. Now we can talk," he said.

"It seemed that they could read the political message and they said they have a more flexible stance. They started to talk more sense, even if it's not enough," he added.

Egypt is pressing for easier access to EU markets for Egyptian foodstuffs, especially rice and potatoes.

The EU, hamstrung by the common agricultural policy, has previously argued for quotas that reflect the historical level of Egyptian exports. Egypt says these are based on a time when it traded mainly with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

Mr. Bayoumi said he had three days of talks with Enrico Cioffi, director of external relations at the European Commission, and representatives of all 15 EU member states.

The Egyptian diplomat had already dismissed the previous quota proposals by the EU. "I gave them a flat no (in December). It was a kind of joke," he said.

The next move is for the representatives of the member states to consult their governments and come back to Egypt with a date for the next formal meeting, Mr. Bayoumi said.

"They want to reach an agreement or at least an agreement in principle by Malta in April," he added. Mediterranean states will meet in Malta for a round of talks on cooperation between the countries on the northern and southern shores of the sea.

"So now there is time pressure on the European side. Malta is a sort of pressure," Mr. Bayoumi said.

Egypt argues that the EU must be more flexible on its agricultural imports if it wants its southern neighbours to take talk of cooperation seriously.

## UNCTAD creates fund to help world's poorest countries

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced here Friday the creation of a fund topping \$1.5 billion aimed at helping the world's neediest countries.

UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero said the financial commitments at the start of February covered a third of a \$5 billion goal and that several countries had pledged new contributions.

The UNCTAD fund initiative is directed at help-

ing the poorest countries integrate into the global economy, he said.

"One of the new aspects of this fund is that it is not uniquely financed by traditional donors" but also developed and even poor countries, he said.

Non-governmental organisations, private concerns and foundations are also contributing.

Technical activities financed by the fund are geared to strengthening export capabilities.

According to UNCTAD, 48 countries fall

into the least developing category, 33 of which are in Africa. They cover 600 million people with annual per capita incomes of less than \$700.

"It is reassuring that even in periods of budgetary restrictions the international community translates into acts its worries, voiced during different conferences, about the increasing marginalisation of the weak countries in a globalised economy," Mr. Ricupero said.

## REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 14/02/97 18:01

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6185	0.4562	0.4562	0.0073	0.5951	1.3660	1.3660	0.6553
DE Mark	0.5940	1.0000	0.7363	0.7363	0.0127	0.8471	1.9360	1.9360	0.9376
GB Sterling	1.6220	2.7315	1.0000	1.0000	0.0167	1.9360	4.5460	4.5460	2.2037
CHF Franc	0.6856	1.1527	0.4221	1.0000	0.0225	1.1350	2.7260	2.7260	1.3660
JP Yen	0.0081	0.0136	0.0065	0.0065	1.0000	0.0084	152.31	152.31	7.4607
CAD Dollar	0.7405	1.2334	0.4508	0.4508	0.0167	1.0000	2.2037	2.2037	1.0913
IT Lire	0.0008	0.0013	0.0006	0.0006	0.0127	0.0167	1.0000	1.0000	0.0548
NL Guilder	0.5293	0.9306	0.3259	0.3259	0.0225	0.7444	0.7444	1.0000	0.3636
FR Franc	0.1780	0.2982	0.1084	0.1084	0.0225	0.2376	0.2376	0.2376	1.0000

Energy	Oil	Coal	Gas
Brent	21.20	20.85	20.85
W. Europe	22.25	22.05	22.05
Bony	21.20	20.85	20.85
Dubai	19.80	19.80	19.80
UL Gas	204.00	204.00	204.00

Metal Prices	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Al (3 Months)	CU (3 Months)	Zinc (3 Months)	Lead (3 Months)	Ni (3 Months)
Gold (oz)	342.8	343.3	343.3	5.15	5.77	364.5	365.5	365.5
Silver (oz)	5.15	5.77	364.5	365.5	365.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Platinum (oz)	364.5	365.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Al (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CU (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zinc (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lead (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ni (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Market Equity Indices	Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pc Ch
New York	DOW JONES	7015.89	-6.54	-0.09	-0.09	7024.75	7002.81	7022.44
New York	S&P 500	511.27	-0.55	-0.07	-0.07	511.92	510.02	511.86
London	FT-SE 100	4342.1	15	0.35	0.35	4353.4	4327.5	4327.1
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16722	33.94	0.18	0.18	16800.0	16605.0	16605.0
Paris	CAC 40	2625.66	-2.75	-0.1	-0.1	2643.98	2616.94	2626.41
Frankfurt	DAX	3244.16	-18.7	-0.58	-0.58	3260.84	3234.35	3234.35

Commodity	Energy	Lat	Deficit
Coffee (c/lb)	175.75	Spot	Spot
Cocoa (c/lb)	224.00	Spot	Spot
Sugar (c/lb)	308	Spot	Spot
Wheat (c/lb)	1.12	Spot	Spot
Soy (c/lb)	22.34	Spot	Spot
Barley (c/lb)	1.17	Spot	Spot
Barley (c/lb)	2.19	Spot	Spot

## India pledges to stick by reforms

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India promised it would not back down on the economic reforms launched five years ago and sought to allay fears of a slowdown during fiscal 1996-97 to March 30.

Finance Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao said steps taken so far by his United Front government should dispel doubts over a slowdown of the reforms launched in 1991 by the previous Congress (I) Party administration.

Mr. Chidambaram said the 1996 would see the same growth as achieved during the last two financial years.

"Despite sluggish credit offtake, lower financial institutions' sanctions and depressed capital market in first half of the year, macro-economic fundamentals remain very strong," United

News of India (UNI) quoted Mr. Chidambaram as saying.

Indian business lobbies say industrial output grew 8.9 per cent for the four months to July 1996 as compared to 12.3 per cent during the corresponding period in 1995, while exports rose 9.8 per cent compared to 28 per cent.

Infrastructure industries such as petroleum, electricity, steel and coal registered a poor growth of 3.3 per cent compared to 10.7 per cent for the April-July period, they say.

"We are determined to tackle the infrastructure problem. While I see signs of hope I also despair at the dilatory process which decision-making is put through," the finance minister said, referring to the bureaucracy.

Mr. Chidambaram, however, said the performance of certain sectors during the first half of 1996-97 should not be taken as a "benchmark" of sluggishness.

The minister said he was confident the agriculture sector would outperform 1995 while the service sector would match its achievement of the previous year.

"With investment picking up in repeat months the industrial sector would also mark an upturn," said Mr. Chidambaram, who was commerce minister in the previous government led by P. V. Narasimha Rao, credited with initiating the reforms.

Mr. Chidambaram also said exports were higher month-on-month since September 1995 until June-July in the 1996/1997 financial year.

## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

1 "Porgy and"

5 "Zoo Story"

10 Neither's partner

13 Comic Johnson

14 RFD part

15 Deal with

16 Went completely

19 Warms up

20 Popeye's

21 Shows boredom

22 Distinctive

24 Sports arena

25 Gluttonous one

27 Middle East

31 — la la

34 Dull pain

36 Water channel

37 A Donahue

38 Stiff hair

39 Distinctive airs

40 Italian wine

41 US president

42 Frenchman's

43 Attempt

44 Musician Brian

45 Rocket

47 "Lay Dying"

48 Inlets

50 Custard tart

52 Daybreaks

54 Weep loudly

57 New Delhi's

60 Far from obliging

63 Writer Ephron

64 Historical

65 Feed the kitty

66 Completa

67 Pick up, as on

68 Selves

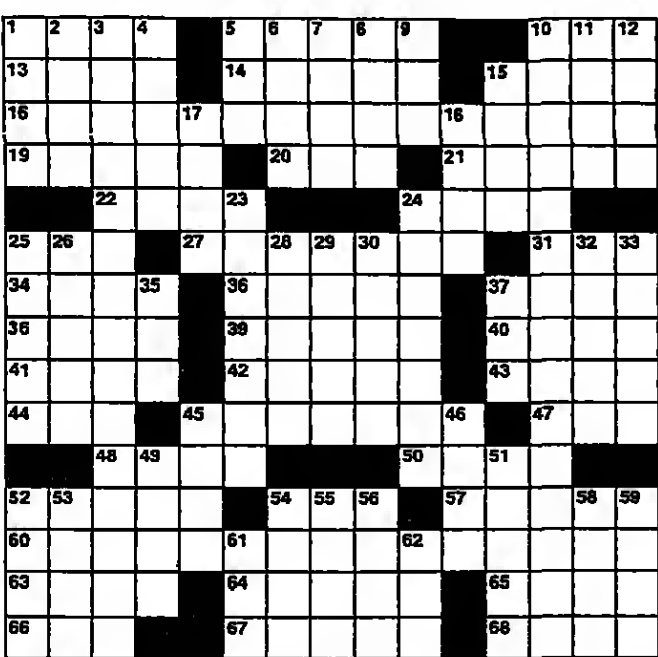
DOWN

1 German

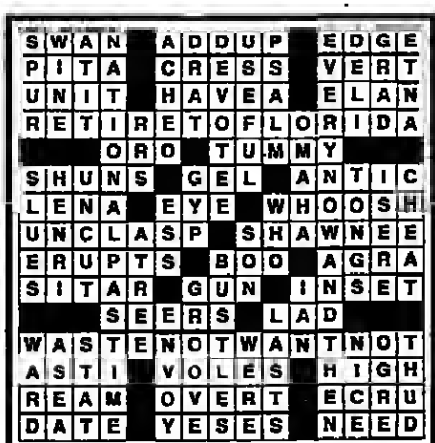
2 PA port

3 Honest

4 Denominations



by Daniel J. Read



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- 5 Branch
- 6 Moon goddess
- 7 Donkey's sound
- 8 Roof edge
- 9 Actor Wallach
- 10 In spite of
- 11 Store sign
- 12 Some colors
- 15 Actor James
- 17 Military letters
- 18 Work-out places
- 23 Hunting expeditions
- 24 By — (alone)
- 25 Arctic or Indian
- 28 Chimney ducts
- 29 Rotates
- 30 Violinmaker
- 32 Gam and
- 33 Excuse
- 35 Have brunch
- 37 Dance step
- 45 Gender: abbr.
- 46 Movie director
- 49 Peruvian Indian
- 51 Rectangular piers
- 52 Sand hill
- 53 Soon
- 54 Capt. Hook's aid
- 55 Arabian sultanate
- 56 Be an omen
- 58 Division word
- 59 Grows older
- 61 Name in hockey
- 62 Moisture

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' eff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have some great ideas for weekend activities today, so don't let them be ignored. Sports, drama, music or all three can be included in your plans for later this evening and whatever you do it can be fun.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Discuss your plans for the days ahead with superiors today and get their insight into what you wish to do. They may be able to make some useful suggestions. Be sure to drive carefully while on the highway.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) If there is a special person you've been wanting to meet, work at arranging a place and time to get together. Don't neglect to do necessary shopping or you won't have anything to wear or eat for the days ahead.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your business sense is especially keen today, so use it wherever you have the opportunity. Try to please your mate later this evening by showing him or her extra attention or especially by going to some special place.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Great benefits can be gained today if you maintain an enthusiastic attitude while dealing with the public, however, watch what you say. Later this evening will be a good time for you to consult with those in authority.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Try to be more efficient and productive today, so that those in authority will notice and make your career activities quite successful. Later this evening you can meet with close friends for some fun activities.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can make a big hit in some public activities today, however, don't overextend yourself or you'll regret it. Use your common sense to handle any difficult situations later this evening and you can become quite successful.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If you put a new idea into operation at home today, life can be more interesting and harmonious there. Be congenial to your guests later this evening and you can gain the respect of those who attend your event.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Adding a bit of humour to your correspondence would be great today, however, don't be too sarcastic. Get your shopping done early, and watch for bargains which can be quite beneficial for those who are watching a budget.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Listen to the advice of a financial expert today and use his or her advice to make your life more comfortable. Show more devotion for your loved ones later this evening. This should be done before they feel neglected.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A good friend can be very helpful today with some unique ideas, so be sure you don't ignore this person. Take some time for relaxation later this evening, since you do need some time to recharge your batteries.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Do something today which you really don't enjoy, however, which will please your mate very much. Take no risks while driving on the highway so that you can prevent getting into any difficult situations.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab governments have been accused of blocking trade among their countries by failing to encourage exporters and keeping customs barriers despite their long-standing free trade pact.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the main financial organisation in the 22-member Arab League, said a large part of imported goods had been damaged because of prolonged inspection at border customs points.

"The customs procedures and practices are still obstructing the flow of goods among Arab countries," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a study.

"This is a result of the numerous parties in charge of clearing imported goods and the complicated and prolonged clearance procedures... In some member states, a full round of clearance for an imported shipment requires more than 20 transactions, which are damaging the goods in most cases," the AMF pointed out.

The AMF, a regional IMF-style institution, said customs authorities in several Arab countries still do not approve trade and health certificates accompanying imported shipments and have to check the whole shipment.

Such measures, it added, are taking a long time and apart from ruining the credibility of exporters, they are also making the imported goods costlier and affecting the purchasing power of the consumers.

"Such problems are also weakening the ability of Arab exporters to reach regional markets and compete with foreign exporters," the fund said.

It was the latest in a series of AMF's studies criticising member states for their failure to spur growth in inter-Arab trade, which officials believe is essential for plans to achieve the long-sought economic integration.

Customs barriers have coupled with financial and political obstacles to smoother inter-Arab trade, which has remained below 10 per cent of the total commercial exchange of league members over the past 20 years.



## Arab Gulf states see boom in aluminium industry

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf oil producers are set to become major aluminium exporters as they push ahead with expansion of their smelters and plans to set up new plants, an official study has said.

The region already controls nearly six per cent of the world's total aluminium output and those projects will push the level to around 10 per cent, the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which hold 45 per cent of global oil reserves and 20 per cent of the gas, currently have two major aluminium smelters in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

They produced nearly 700,000 tonnes in 1996 and output is set to surge following the completion this month of an expansion project to boost capacity at the UAE's Dubai smelter to 375,000 tonnes from 240,000 tonnes.

Bahrain's ALBA, the biggest smelter in the Middle East, is also planning to increase capacity to more than 500,000 tonnes from 460,000 tonnes after investing hundreds of millions of dollars in previous expansion projects.

"Since the Gulf region possesses the resources and elements needed for the aluminium industry and GCC countries are determined to expand their industrial sector, the aluminium sector is expected to develop rapidly and this will contribute to boosting industrial output," said the Doha-based GOIC, which advises on non-oil industrial policies in the 16-year-old Gulf alliance.

Its study estimated the GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — had pumped nearly \$4.3 billion into the aluminium industry. The figure does not include spending of nearly \$500 million on the latest expansions at the Dubai smelter.

Their exports exceeded 520,000 tonnes worth around \$932 million in 1995, most of which were sold to Japan and South Korea.

Gulf states are planning to build new smelters to take advantage of the strong demand in Japan and other South East Asian countries and the recovery of aluminium prices in world markets. Two plans have been on the cards for the past three years in Kuwait and Qatar while the UAE said last month it was planning to build a smelter in Abu Dhabi with private participation.

"The new smelters will push up the total aluminium production in the Gulf to nearly 1.5 million tonnes, or 10 per cent of the world's output," GOIC said.

"Such an expansion is expected to continue in future at the expense of production in other areas given the existing advantages in the region," it added.

The study was referring to the GCC's massive gas reserves of around 21 trillion cubic metres, the presence of cheap labour and its location in the heart of a vast Asian consumer market.

Such factors have made aluminium and other industrial projects more feasible than in other areas and prompted regional states to pump huge investments into manufacturing in a drive to diversify their economies and lessen reliance on unpredictable oil export earnings.

GOIC said Gulf countries needed to coordinate their sales, tackle pollution from smelters and establish an integrated aluminium industry.

"The future of the aluminium industry in the GCC hinges on three basic factors," it said. "They include cooperation in marketing and expansions, protection of the environment and the establishment of an integrated aluminium industry that will include all types of products and its basic components, alumina and petroleum coke."

## Brokers expect investors to return with enthusiasm to AFM this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading was rather dull at this week at the stock market when compared with the previous week, but prices edged up all in sectors in continuing enthusiasm over the abolition of a capitalisation tax.

The Amman Financial Market (AFM), as the bourse is officially known, did business for only Wednesday this week and observed a four-day Muslim religious holiday. Thursday is set aside for weekly accounting.

Turnover for the day was 906,000 dinars (\$1.27 million) on Wednesday, with 448,000 shares changing hands under 731 deals.

Industrials accounted for 410,000 dinars (\$578,000) of the turnover followed by commercial banks and investment houses with 400,000 dinars (\$564,000) of the volume, services sector companies with 95,000 dinars (\$133,400) and insurance firms with 1,000 dinars (\$1,410).

The official AFM share price index closed for the week at 157.24 points after

gaining 0.68 per cent.

Sectoral indices showed commercial banks and investment houses closing with a 0.92 per cent gain, industrials with 0.44 per cent, insurance firms with 0.05 per cent and service sector firms with 0.39 per cent.

Stocks of 55 companies were involved in the day's business, with 36 of them closing with gains, eight slipping and 11 remaining unchanged.

Brokers said they expected investors returning to the market with enthusiasm after the 'Eid Al Fitr' holiday season on Saturday in continued interest after parliament last week adopted the abrogation of a 15 per cent capitalisation tax.

Many major banks and industrial firms were waiting for the move, which does away with a levy on reserves and profits turned into equity, before announcing capital increases.

Several of the banks and companies are expected to issue bonus shares to shareholders when they convert reserves and profits to capital, the brokers noted.

## Jordan to get \$51.8 million additional credit from IMF for 'augmentation of resources'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved an additional credit of nearly \$52 million to help Jordan's economic restructuring programme in what is seen as a reflection of the world body's satisfaction with the performance of the Kingdom's economy.

The new credit of 37.24 million Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, equivalent to \$51.8 million, raises to nearly \$340 million the IMF credit given to Jordan for the 1996-98 period.

Jordan has already received \$123 million from the so-called extended fund facility (EFF), Finance Ministry Secretary General Suleiman Hafez said in a statement.

Jordan, which has a foreign debt of about \$6 billion, has won high praise from the IMF for its successful implementation of economic reforms prescribed by the world monetary watchdog.

The IMF board approved the new credit last week.

The new credit is in addition to the 200.8 million SDRs (\$280 million) that the IMF has given under the EFF, said Mr. Hafez, noting that the total

now stands at 238.04 million SDRs, equivalent to \$337 million.

The credit is provided under the title "augmentation of resources." That meant the credit would be used to increase Jordan's foreign currency reserves and achieve a better balance of payments.

IMF Managing Director Michael Camdessus, who visited Jordan in January for a review of Jordan's implementation of the economic reform programme, has given his seal of approval of the Kingdom's performance.

In comments to the press after talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other senior officials, Mr. Camdessus said Jordan had "not only met the targets set in the reform programme but also set a better record in containing inflation, curbing expenditure and maintaining a relatively high growth rate."

Jordan adopted the economic reform programme in 1989 when it found its foreign reserves completely depleted, forcing a devaluation of the dinar, and unable to service foreign debts, which then stood at nearly \$8.5 billion.

Since then it has brought down the debts to around \$6 billion and stabilised the currency, whose

exchange rate now stands at \$1.41 to one dinar as opposed to nearly \$3 in 1988.

Jordan expects its gross domestic product to be more than \$6 billion in 1997.

In his statement on Thursday, Mr. Hafez said that in real terms there has been a six per cent growth in the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP), a drop to three to four per cent in the rates of inflation, a reduction to three per cent in the margin of deficit in the country's balance of payments in GDP terms.

Furthermore, the country's debts have been brought down by half in GDP terms as compared with the 1990 figures, he said.

Mr. Hafez said IMF's executive board had endorsed a report about Jordan's economic performance in 1996 and approved the Kingdom's request for the new credit.

An IMF team had visited Jordan in October to review the Kingdom's economic performance and filed a report to the IMF's board noting that the economic restructuring programme was going ahead in a very satisfactory manner and in some areas exceeded expectations. Mr. Hafez said.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Ministry of Tourism, MoGA studying plan to develop downtown Amman

\*\*THE MINISTRY of Tourism in cooperation with the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) is studying a plan to develop the centre of Amman during the coming months. The plan which is estimated preliminary to cost JD13 million, involves two stages.

The first stage for developing downtown Amman covers the area extending from the Roman amphitheatre unto Al Qalaa' (the castle) and includes building a modern bus terminal to be used for touristic groups and turning King Talal street into a "touristic" street and linking it with the area of Ras Al 'Ain.

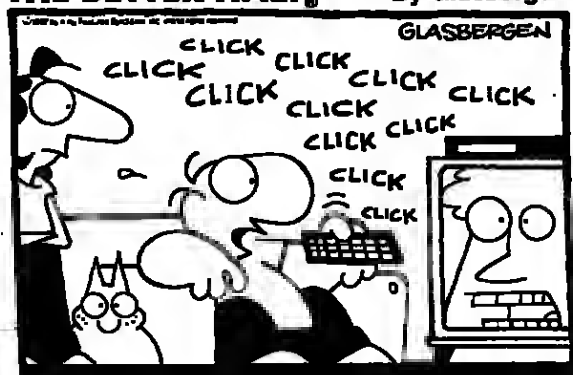
The plan also includes reviving the ancient trails that were used by tourists between Al Qalaa' and the Roman amphitheatre in addition to setting up panoramic sites at Al Qalaa' to enable the tourist view various areas of Amman. Furthermore, the first stage comprises establishing a centre for visitors and tourists that would consist of a small theatre and a section to distribute films, slides and pamphlets, containing information about the capital, to the guests. The centre could be the old building that housed the Municipality of Greater Amman in the past.

The second stage envisages building a national museum in the Ras Al 'Ain district of Amman. The scheme, for which MoGA has allocated the necessary plot of land, still requires a study for the environmental effects for setting up the project.

According to sources, the final study for both stages is pending an approval from a Japanese fund to finance the plan. Negotiations in this regard is expected to start in October of this year.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that a Japanese delegation will visit the country next month to discuss with Jordanian officials various details about the whole plan (Al Dustour).

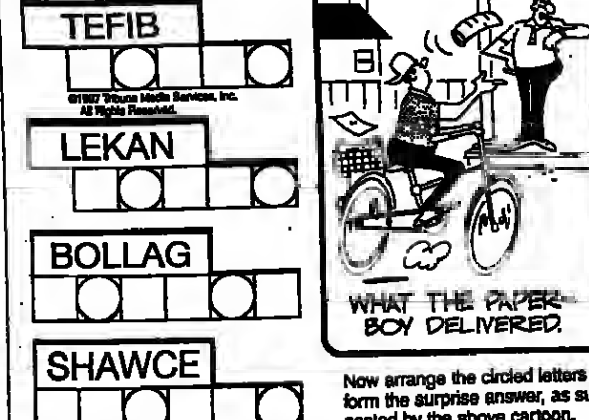
### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Once I got this baby up to 120 channels per minute, but the batteries exploded."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: THE " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: RAPID FETID PIGEON APPAL Answer: This happened to his weight as he grew older - IT DROPPED

## Arab businessman makes peace investment in Israel

CAIRO (R) — Businessman Ibrahim Kamel, a rare Egyptian investor in the Israeli market, said this week he had bought a stake in Israel's Koor Industries as a political gesture to promote peace.

Mr. Kamel, chairman of the Kato group of companies, told Reuters the aim was to encourage the new Israeli government towards a settlement with the Palestinians.

He said he once thought that Arab investment in Israel should wait until Israel made peace with all its neighbours — a view shared by many Arab businessmen and governments.

"I have changed my mind, simply because I feel that moves like the one I made could make the Israeli government more able to make some of the difficult decisions that lie ahead before we arrive at a final agreement for the Palestinians," he added.

Mr. Kamel said some friends and acquaintances had phoned him for an explanation of his controversial decision but were satisfied with his explanations.

Despite 48 years of peace most Egyptians have never been enthusiastic about relations with Israel and economic relations are limited. Egyptian public opinion has grown even more hostile since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office last June.

Mr. Kamel, who has interests in the food industry, banking, real estate and trade, declined to say how much he had invested in Koor Industries but he said it was "not substantial".

He said it was the first time his companies had bought a stake in an Israeli company. "At this stage it is a symbol more than anything else. As good human beings we would like to encourage the Israeli government to make the necessary decisions...and show that by making progress there is always a positive feedback," he added.

## Morocco allows banks to cross-trade currencies

RABAT (R) — Morocco, aiming to speed liberalisation of the foreign exchange market, will allow domestic banks to start exchanging hard currencies with foreign financial institutions, the central bank said.

In a circular received by Reuters, Bank Al Maghrib said legally established banks "are authorised to start purchase and sale of foreign currency (cross rate) operations with Bank Al Maghrib and foreign banks."

The circular said the interest rate applied to these operations "is freely negotiated between the two parties". It also lifted a commission previously imposed by the Office des Changes regulatory bureau. "The monetary authorities move is a good thing for us and for our clients...It

is an important step towards the total liberalisation of Morocco's foreign exchange market," a dealer at a Casablanca-based bank told Reuters.

"It will stimulate the market and help small and medium sized enterprises to collect funds more easily than in the past for import/export operations," he added.

The Office des Changes earlier issued another circular on the change saying "the cross rate operations should not be translated by borrowings or overdrafts with foreign banks."

The central bank circular said the cross-rate liberalisation covers all traded foreign currencies on the Moroccan market — about 25 currencies according to one banker — but not those of the Arab Maghreb Union which comprises Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The central bank circular said banks must report daily when transactions exceed the equivalent of five million dirhams (\$0.5 million). This must be done by 6 p.m. (1800 GMT) at the latest.

It also fixed the equivalent of 2.0 million dirhams as "minimum deposit" of domestic banks at Bank Al Maghrib.

"The gradual liberalisation of the foreign exchange market will help banks to get more experience and avoid professional accidents..."

Mouna Lahou, an analyst at Casablanca Finance Intermediation, said. The long-term aim is total convertibility of the Moroccan dirham, which is widely considered a stable currency.

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# Sports

## Lakers win again without Shaq

DENVER (R) — Even without Shaq, the show must go on, and the Los Angeles Lakers rolled to their second straight win without their star Thursday, crushing the Denver Nuggets 132-117.

Nick Van Exel scored 30 points and matched a team record with eight three-pointers as the Lakers cruised to their ninth win in 10 games, but the win was dampened by the news earlier in the day that Shaquille O'Neal will be out at least eight weeks with ligament damage in his left knee.

Eddie Jones scored 22 points and Elden Campbell, playing centre in O'Neal's place for a second straight game in a row, added 19 for the Lakers, who are three games ahead of the Seattle SuperSonics for the lead in the Pacific Division.

"When we play without Shaq it's like a Broadway play and Elde is the understudy and the play goes on," Los Angeles coach Del Harris said.

"I played centre before and it felt good being the go-to guy," Campbell said. "We played some good defence tonight to set the tone. We broke their spirit and did a good job until the very end when it didn't matter anymore."

Van Exel, who shot 8-for-13 from three-point range, also made eight three-pointers in Dallas in 1994.

"I was feeling it tonight," Van Exel said. "Without Shaq I have to be a little more creative and get the guys active. It seems like they didn't play hard, like they just gave up. I think we can still get the top spot in the Western Conference" without O'Neal.

The Lakers' 132 points matched the NBA season high set by the Nuggets against the New Jersey Nets on January 20.

"We just moved the ball well," Harris said. "We're one of the better scoring teams in the league."

Bryant Stith scored 26 points and Antonio McDyess added 23 points and nine rebounds for the Nuggets, who have lost three of their last five games.

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning scored 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the Heat to their eighth straight victory, 106-90 over the Indiana Pacers.

The Pacers led 24-23 at the end of the first quarter, but Miami took control with a 21-2 run in the second that featured a string of four three-pointers. Voshon Lenard hit the first and last and Keith Atkins and Tim Hardaway



Los Angeles Lakers guard Eddie Jones (6) and forward Robert Horry (R) stop Denver Nuggets guard Bryant Stith from penetrating the lane in the first quarter in Denver. The Lakers won 132-117 (Reuters photo)

oiled the others. The heat went into halftime with a 57-34 lead.

"We simply had one of the best quarters this season," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "That was the best we've run our offense."

"It got contagious," Hardaway said. "We started rolling."

Hardaway finished with 18 points, 14 assists and four steals and Askins hit for a season-high 15 points for Miami, which averaged a 103-89 home loss to Indiana. "Lenard rebounded from a scoreless effort against Detroit Tuesday with 20 points."

In Dallas, Laurrel Sprewell had 28 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Golden State Warriors pulled away late for a 107-99 victory over the Mavericks, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Joe Smith added 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors.

Chris Gatling, making his first start of the season, had 19

points and 13 rebounds and Sam Cassell added 18 points, seven rebounds and five steals for Dallas.

At Utah, Jeff Hornacek scored 10 of his 16 points during a pivotal 25-0 third-quarter burst as the Jazz won their fourth straight game, routing the Portland Trail Blazers 110-86.

Hornacek had 10 points and Bryon Russell added five as the Jazz turned a 53-47 edge into a 31-point lead with 4:32 to play in the quarter. Karl Malone led Utah with 24 points and 11 rebounds and John Stockton added 17 and 13 assists.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored a season-high 41 points and Olden Polynice added 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Kings beat the Los Angeles Clippers 105-98.

Richmond tied his season high with seven three-pointers

and led the team in scoring for the 11th straight game. The Kings snapped a three-game losing streak.

Malik Sealy scored 20 points and Loy Vaught chipped in 17 and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who had their winning streak snapped at a season-high five games.

In New York, Allan Houston scored 28 points and Charles Oakley added 21 — all in the second half — as the Knicks defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 97-92.

Patrick Ewing added 17 points as New York defeated Philadelphia for the 26th time in its last 33 meetings. Jerry Stackhouse led Philadelphia with 20 points but rookie point guard Allen Iverson, who torched the Knicks for 83 points in the first three meetings this season, was held to 13 on 4-for-19 shooting.

### NBA RESULTS

Miami	106	Indiana	90
New York	107	Philadelphia	92
Golden State	107	Dallas	99
LA Lakers	132	Denver	117
Utah	110	Portland	86
Sacramento	105	LA Clippers	98

### GREEN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
4AK54 CB9 0A85 4A878  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass  
2♠ Pass 2NT Pass  
What action do you take?  
A - Partner might have as many as 10 points, putting you in the game range. However, you have no source of tricks, so chances of scraping up nine tricks are not easy. To invite game with two no trump puts you in the danger zone. Pass, and make sure of a plus score.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
4K83 CQ78 04 4K9873  
The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♠ 1♠ 2♠ 2♠  
What do you bid now?  
A - The points are more or less evenly distributed between the two sides. Bid one no trump, thereby stealing the whole one-level from the opponents.

Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
4KJ785 QK64 0J6 473  
The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♠ 1♠ 2♠ 2♠  
What action do you take?  
A - You have the strength for a redouble, but the problem will then come on the next round: What will you do when an opponent bids two clubs and that gets passed back to you? You can avoid that predicament by bidding one spade now. In the modern style, that is forcing for one round.

Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
4KJ785 QK64 0J6 473  
The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♠ 1♠ 2♠ 2♠  
What do you bid now?  
A - You don't know yet whether partner is aiming for game or making the first move in a probe for slam. In either case, you have an absolute maximum for the auction and should be happy to cooperate. Start by talking partner about your ace of diamonds. Cue-bid four diamonds.

## Venables summons exiled Aussies into World Cup camp

SYDNEY (AFP) — Terry Venables has called up 14 British-based Australians to form the nucleus of a 30-man football squad for a three-day training camp in London later this month.

The new man in charge of Australia's push for a place in next year's World Cup finals in France will run the camp from February 24.

Apart from the British-based socceros, Venables has summoned 13 players with European clubs and three in Asia.

Assistant national coach Raul Blanco said here Friday that almost all of the players had indicated they were willing to attend the camp.

"It will help in working out the squads for the coming two internationals against Macedonia and Hungary," said Blanco.

Venables' plans will revolve around Australia's influential stars, Paul Okon (Lazio, Italy), Ned Zelic (Auxerre, France),

Aurelio Vidmar (Tenerife, Spain), Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa, England) and Craig Moore (Rangers, Scotland).

Graham Arnold and Tony Popovic (Japan) and Mehmet Durakovic (Malaysia) comprise the Asian contingent while further English-based players are Robbie Slater (Southampton), Stan Lazaridis (West Ham),

Steve Corica (Wolverhampton) and Carl Meart (Crystal Palace).

The squad also includes a number of younger players from the Olympic Games and national youth teams in Harry Kewell, Kevin Muscat, Sean Murphy, Lucas Neill, Danny Tiatto and Mark Viduka.

Australia beat Norway 1-0, South Korea 2-1 and New Zealand 1-0 in a home tournament last month under Venables and the results helped boost Australia to 33 to the latest FIFA world ratings.

## Novak ousts Krajicek in Dubai Open

DUBAI (AFP) — Jiri Novak threw up a roadblock in the post-surgery progress of third seed Richard Krajicek, dumping out the Dutchman 6-2, 6-2 Friday to move into the semifinals of the million dollar Dubai Tennis Open World No. 67 Novak from the Czech Republic pounced on every error from the Wimbledon champion, playing in his first event since December arthroscopic knee surgery.

Novak, a doubles finalist at the aviation club a year ago, showed resilience on the hardcourt just days after helping the Czech Republic into the Davis Cup quarter-finals over India.

"It has been a difficult week for me," said the winner. "I came from India on the clay to the hardcourt here."

"I had Carlos Moya in the first round and he was the Australian Open finalist. That win and this one were both good results for me."

"Krajicek (World No. 6) is ranked far higher than me, but I was better today, I'm very happy."

Krajicek, error-plagued throughout the 55-minute defeat, finally fell as Novak fired a backhand winner down the line after a lengthy rally which included several breath-taking let-cord bounces.

The Czech spoiler will now await his Saturday opponent from Friday's showcase match between seventh seed Boris Becker and holder Goran Ivanisevic, the tournament No. 1.



Ajax Amsterdam striker Patrick Kluivert (L) speaks with his coach Louis van Gaal during a training session in Amsterdam. Italian soccer giants AC Milan announced on Thursday they have signed a four-year contract with Kluivert. Van Gaal will also be leaving the club at the end of this season (Reuters photo)

## UEFA sets date for German, English bids

BARSINGHAUSEN, Germany (AFP) — UEFA Secretary General Gerhard Aigner said Thursday that the German and English Football Federations would present their rival bids to host the 2006 World Cup in Geneva on April 17.

UEFA, who will have a meeting on the same day to choose which one gets their official backing, are keen for there to be only one European candidate to host the World Cup as they feel a double European candidature would split their vote and let in a strong candidate from Africa or South America.

The row between the two football authorities has also brought the two political heads of state into the battleground.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he would campaign hard for a German win while English Prime Minister John Major, who is due to fight a general election in the next three months, enlisted the help of some of England's most famous footballers on Wednesday to kickstart their campaign.

FIFA will make the final decision on who hosts the event in 2000.

## Weather forces delay in World Skiing events

SESTRIERE (AFP) — Three gold medals will be up for grabs here on Saturday, after bad weather forced organisers to again postpone the women's combined downhill on Friday.

The race, originally scheduled on Thursday but hit by high winds, will now be held at 13.00 p.m. (1200 GMT) on Saturday, with the women's downhill being brought forward to 10.30 a.m. (0930 GMT).

The men's slalom will be held on Saturday evening under floodlights, as planned.

Friday's programme, which also included a women's downhill training session, was wiped out by fog, winds and fresh snowfalls.

The only event which organisers have been able to hold since the poor weather arrived was the combined slalom on Thursday night, dominated by Italian Morena Gallizio.

## IN BRIEF

### to halt Davis Cup relegation

ing on Boris Becker and Michael Stich to see if B. Buitl players were missing in Germany. But the two would be available to play the 19-21 September.

### November

rs Paris Saint-Germain notched up their 11th win in 12 away at relegation zone. A 1-0 win over the Alenconais, who had been in the relegation zone, secured the win. The 19-year-old Ruby was the first to score in the 19-21 September.

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## Brazil tops FIFA world rankings

MURICH (AFP) — FIFA world football rankings have been released, with Brazil at the top.

The rankings are based on a system of points awarded to teams based on their performance in international matches.

Brazil, who won the 1994 World Cup, are at the top of the list with 1,000 points.

France, who won the 1998 World Cup, are second with 950 points.

Germany, who won the 1974 and 1990 World Cups, are third with 900 points.

Italy, who won the 1934, 1938, 1982 and 1990 World Cups, are fourth with 850 points.

The Netherlands, who won the 1978 World Cup, are fifth with 800 points.

Spain, who won the 1950 World Cup, are sixth with 750 points.

Sweden, who won the 1958 World Cup, are seventh with 700 points.

Argentina, who won the 1978 World Cup, are eighth with 650 points.

Colombia, who won the 1990 World Cup, are ninth with 600 points.

Costa Rica, who won the 1990 World Cup, are tenth with 550 points.

Uruguay, who won the 1930 World Cup, are 11th with 500 points.

Paraguay, who won the 1986 World Cup, are 12th with 450 points.

Chile, who won the 1962 World Cup, are 13th with 400 points.

Peru, who won the 1970 World Cup, are 14th with 350 points.

Venezuela, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 15th with 300 points.

Guatemala, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 16th with 250 points.

El Salvador, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 17th with 200 points.

Honduras, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 18th with 150 points.

Nicaragua, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 19th with 100 points.

Cuba, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 20th with 50 points.

Yemen, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 21st with 0 points.

Qatar, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 22nd with 0 points.

Ukraine, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 23rd with 0 points.

Belarus, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 24th with 0 points.

Armenia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 25th with 0 points.

Georgia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 26th with 0 points.

Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 27th with 0 points.

Abkhazia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 28th with 0 points.

South Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 29th with 0 points.

North Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 30th with 0 points.

South Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 31st with 0 points.

North Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 32nd with 0 points.

South Ossetia, who won the 1982 World Cup, are 33rd with 0 points.

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